

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of claims:

1-33. **(Cancelled)**

34. **(Currently amended)** A pharmaceutical composition comprising dead *E. coli* containing therein at least one modified peanut allergen whose amino acid sequence differs from that of a wild-type peanut allergen that occurs in nature such that the modified peanut allergen has a reduced ability to bind to or cross-link IgE as compared with the wild-type peanut allergen, wherein the wild-type peanut allergen is an Ara h 1, Ara h 2 or Ara h 3 protein with an amino acid sequence that is encoded by the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:2, or SEQ ID NO:3; and
a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

35. **(Currently amended)** The pharmaceutical composition of claim 34, wherein the wild-type peanut allergen is an Ara h 1 protein with an amino acid sequence that is encoded by the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 (SEQ ID NO:1).

36. **(Currently amended)** The pharmaceutical composition of claim 34, wherein the wild-type peanut allergen is an Ara h 2 protein with an amino acid sequence that is encoded by the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 (SEQ ID NO:2).

37. **(Currently amended)** The pharmaceutical composition of claim 34, wherein the wild-type peanut allergen is an Ara h 3 protein with an amino acid sequence that is encoded by the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:3 (SEQ ID NO:3).

38. **(Currently amended)** The pharmaceutical composition of claim 34, wherein the sequence of the modified peanut allergen differs from the sequence of the wild-type peanut allergen by one or more amino acid deletions, substitutions or additions within an IgE binding site of the wild-type peanut allergen.

39. **(Currently amended)** The pharmaceutical composition of claim 38, wherein the sequence of the modified peanut allergen lacks a portion of the wild-type peanut allergen sequence, and wherein said portion includes an IgE binding site.

40. **(Currently amended)** The pharmaceutical composition of claim 34, wherein the modified peanut allergen is located in the cytoplasm of the dead *E. coli*.

41. **(Currently amended)** The pharmaceutical composition of claim 34, wherein the modified peanut allergen is located in the periplasm of the dead *E. coli*.

42. **(Currently amended)** The pharmaceutical composition of claim 34, wherein the modified peanut allergen cannot be detected by antibody binding without disrupting the dead *E. coli*.

43. **(New)** The pharmaceutical composition of claim 34, wherein the dead *E. coli* was heat-killed.

44. **(New)** The pharmaceutical composition of claim 34, wherein the dead *E. coli* was killed by chemical treatment.

45. **(New)** The pharmaceutical composition of claim 44, wherein the dead *E. coli* was killed using a chemical selected from the group consisting of iodine, bleach, ozone, and alcohols.